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# Broadcasters Letter

United States Department of Agriculture • Office of Communications • Washington, DC 20250-1300

Letter No. 2711

April 28, 1995

**NATIONAL RURAL CONFERENCE HELD IN IOWA --** Following a series of forums around the country, Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman joined President Bill Clinton for a National Rural Conference in Ames, Iowa. Secretary Glickman said key messages they received were needs for greater flexibility in farm programs and advice that the administration can't adopt a "one size fits all" approach when writing the 1995 farm bill. President Clinton laid out eight principles he will use in writing that farm bill. They include maintaining the foundation of the farm economy, expanding markets and rural economic opportunity, promoting stewardship of America's resources, science and research, ensuring a safe food supply, healthy diets and marketing American agriculture. Glickman is hopeful farm bill proposals will be before Congress in a few weeks. **Contact: Jim Petterson (202) 720-4623.**

**CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM CHANGES --** Saying he hopes it will give farmers more flexibility, Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman announced three major changes in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). Producers whose CRP contracts expire on September 30, 1995 will have the option of extending that contract for one year. Secondly, if producers choose not to extend and want to plant on that CRP land, USDA will modify program requirements covering it for fall seeding preparation. The third change will give farmers a one-time chance to remove all or part of their acreage from the program. Released acreage will be replaced with land having higher environmental quality. For more information about these CRP changes, contact the nearest Consolidated Farm Service Agency office. **Contact: Bryce Merkle (202) 720-8206.**

**USDA AND CANADIAN GRAIN COMMISSION SIGN AGREEMENT --** The U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Canadian Grain Commission (CGC) signed an agreement authorizing CGC to inspect and weigh U.S. grain in Canada on USDA's behalf. USDA hopes this will further contain the cost of official services by eliminating the need to maintain a staff in Canada. Among other services, the CGC will provide grain sampling, stowage examination, grain inspection and grain weighing. USDA will oversee and issue official certificates. **Contact: Dana Stewart (202) 720-5091.**

**THEY CAN'T WORM THEIR WAY OUT OF THIS ONE! --** An environmentally friendly way to get rid of not-so-friendly corn earworms has been developed by a U.S. Department of Agriculture entomologist. The corn earworm damages a variety of crops, mostly corn and cotton. But a newly discovered virus causing sterility in corn earworms could help save those crops. Ashok Raina with USDA's Agricultural Research Service, found the virus that infects only the moth's reproductive system and sterilizes 70 to 80 percent of the corn earworm population to which it is introduced. Those moths with low level infections that are still able to reproduce pass on the virus. Scientists are hoping the virus causes sterility in related pests like the legume podborer, tobacco budworm and fall armyworm. **Contact: Sean Adams (301) 344-2723.**

**REVISED PL-480 ALLOCATIONS FOR 1995** -- The Department of Agriculture officials revised their fiscal year 1995 Public Law 480 country allocations, reflecting a proposed cut of \$60.2 million in program level and \$50 million in budget authority for the year. Since the original announcement in January, allocations have been eliminated for Albania, El Salvador, Guatemala, Morocco and Yemen. Reductions were made for the former Yugoslavia Republic of Macedonia and the Philippines. Congressional action is required to approve the revised appropriations. **Contact: Glenn Kaup (202) 720-3329.**

**THIRD TIME A CHARM?** -- For the third time, high cotton prices have triggered a special import quota to permit importing cotton equaling one week's worth of domestic mill use. The quota applies to upland cotton purchased not later July 24, 1995 and in the U.S. no later than October 22, 1995. Cotton imported under this special quota is not subject to the over-quota tariff rate. This special import quota will permit 103,082,657 pounds of upland cotton to be imported. **Contact: Bruce Merkle (202) 720-8206.**

**BACKGROUND FOR FARM BILL DEBATE** -- The first of 12 background reports on the 1995 farm bill were released by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Outlining the likely parameters of the farm bill debate, these reports offer policy options, policy history and the current state of a particular commodity. The first four reports released by USDA deal with tobacco, peanuts, dairy and honey. Coming are reports on federal marketing orders, commodities such as cotton, sugar, wheat, rice, feed grains, and oilseeds, and on the agricultural export programs. Reports can be ordered by calling 1-800-999-6779. Cost of reports varies depending on length. **Contact: Linda Hatcher (202) 219-0519.**

**NEW USES FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS** -- What does diesel fuel made from vegetables, windshield washer fluid made from corn and tree-free paper have in common? They are just a few of the things made from agricultural products displayed by USDA's Alternative Agricultural Research and Commercialization (AARC) Center during a recent Earth Month display. Created by Congress in 1990, the purpose of the AARC Center is to expedite development and market penetration of industrial products made from agricultural and forestry products and animal by-products. The center helps the private sector to bridge the gap between research and commercialization. Preference is given to projects that benefit rural communities and are environmentally friendly. Other products on display included low value wool used to absorb waste oil, milkweed floss used in pillows and comforters and various products used in building materials. **Contact: Ron Buckhalt (202) 690-1624.**

**UPDATING EGG AND EGG PRODUCT INSPECTIONS** -- A proposal to clarify and update egg and egg products inspection regulations is being offered by USDA. This should bring inspections in line with new technology and current production and processing practices. The proposed revisions would redefine dirty eggs, define washed eggs and clarify facilities and equipment to be provided to graders and inspectors. Also, labeling requirements for imported eggs and egg products would be clarified, and it would provide for less than quarterly visits to hatcheries. The Egg Products Inspection Act requires continuous USDA inspection of any plant that processes egg products. No egg products processor may operate without the inspection service assuring consumers of wholesome, unadulterated and properly labeled and packaged eggs and egg products. Comments on this proposal need to be submitted to the appropriate office by June 23. **Contact: Becky Unkenholz (202) 720-8998.**



## FROM OUR RADIO SERVICE

**AGRICULTURE USA #1978** -- The National Rural Conference held in Iowa is the topic of this week's Agriculture USA. Gary Crawford highlights the concerns rural Americans talked about with President Bill Clinton, Vice President Al Gore and Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman. (Weekly 5:00 documentary feature).

**CONSUMER TIME #1457** -- Mice problems. Turning green into black. A recycled new home. Chemicals and your lawn. Transforming rural health care. (Weekly consumer features).

**AGRITAPE FEATURES #1969** -- Major changes in the Conservation Reserve Program. Looking at the inner-workings of a livestock auction. Getting ready for the 1995 farm bill. USDA is looking for a producer to help make a filler and bulking agent known as "Alternan." Hog sector concerns. Looking at the what concerns those in the hog sector. (Weekly agriculture features).

**UPCOMING ON USDA'S RADIO NEWSLINE** -- Tuesday, May 9, weekly weather and crops. Wednesday, May 10, world agricultural supply and demand for cotton. Thursday, May 11, world agricultural supply and demand; cotton and wool outlook; crop production report. Friday, May 12, world agricultural production; grains and oilseeds world markets and trade; feed outlook; oil crops outlook; rice outlook; wheat outlook. Monday, May 15, cattle and sheep outlook. Tuesday, May 16, farm labor; milk production and income; poultry outlook; weekly weather and crops. Friday, May 19, agricultural outlook; cattle on feed; livestock slaughter. **These are the USDA reports we know about in advance. Our NEWSLINE carries many stories every day which are not listed in this lineup.**

**USDA RADIO NEWSLINES (202) 488-8358 or (202) 720-8359**  
**COMREX ENCODED (202) 720-2545**  
**Material changed at 5 p.m. ET each working day.**

## FROM OUR TELEVISION SERVICE

**ACTUALITIES** -- Agriculture Secretary speaks with farmers at various rural forums. President Clinton, Vice President Al Gore and Secretary Glickman attend National Rural Conference. Paul Johnson, Chief of the Natural Resources and Conservation Service talks about changes in the Conservation Reserve Program.

## SATELLITE COORDINATES FOR TV NEWSFEEDS:

Thursday, 3:45 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET, Telstar 302, C-band, Channel 6 (Transponder 3H), audio 6.2 and 6.8, downlink frequency 3820 MHz. Monday, 11:00-11:15 a.m. ET, Galaxy 4, Channel 12 (C-band), audio 6.2 and 6.8, downlink frequency 3940 MHz.

## OFF MIKE

**48 YEARS IN BROADCASTING...**45 of those in the Black Hills of South Dakota will be the milestone reached May 1 by **Verne Sheppard** (KTOQ\KICK, Rapid City, SD) as he discontinues his morning radio and farm/ranch TV reports. Verne does plan to do some radio work from time to time later on KTOQ. His station will continue use of our weekly radio feature, *Agriculture USA*.

**FARM SERIES IN THE NEWS...**is a new feature that **Vicki Eilers** (WTAD, Quincy, IL) is producing in cooperation with her radio news director. This week's story advised the public on safety tips they should practice during this active, spring planting season when farmers are moving equipment on the roads. Features are 1-2 minutes in length and run during a 5-7 minute local newscast. Vicki said farmers are getting anxious for the rain to quit so they can complete spring planting.

**RECORD COTTON PLANTINGS...**are planned in Mississippi. **John Winfield** (Mississippi Network, Jackson, MS) says 1.5 million acres are expected to be planted, up 200,000 from last year. Statewide this week, rainfall measured 3-16 inches with only 10 percent of the crop already planted. Mississippi Farmer of the Year was named April 6. He is **Danny Ross Ingram**, a cattle and cotton farmer. John says he's the 10th farmer to be recognized in this annual awards program.

**POULTRY EXPANSION...**is underway in Western Kentucky, reports **Jeff Nalley** (WOMI/WBKR, Owensboro, KY). He says two major firms will be building complete poultry processing facilities that each will handle one million birds per week. A constant supply of corn, good labor resources and good water sources are reasons why this expansion is underway. Farmers will be building poultry houses to raise birds that will be contract-produced for these new plants. The first house will open in early May with first processing anticipated in early 1996. Despite 2-5 inch rainfall this week, corn is more than 50 percent planted in Kentucky.



**LARRY A. QUINN, Director**  
Video, Teleconference and Radio Center

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